Dear Hal,

8/9/97

Thanks for your 8/2 and the enclosures. Some were particularly interesting.

I'm sure that if it has reached him Bill has not had time to have a copy of Bogus made yet. I've sent copies to the dean of the law school whose Review Hall used and to ARRB, each with a letter and each with a copy of the exhibits, about 65 of them. I have had no response and will be surprised if I get one of any meaning. If any at all.

Holland and his review are particularly interesting. He confirms the impresssion I'd formed of him, of a man who believes his is such a big brain it has no need for fact except if he can corrupt it to fit his preconceptions.

He says that the disclosure of relatively few USSR documents on the 1962 missile crisis is important but he gives none of the content for his reader to know and understand. He says that while Castro did not begin as a Communist a couple around him did. In fact the Communists opposed Castro, the Cuban Communists. Holland also does not mention the unprecedented measures taken by the Eisenhower administration to control Kennedy policy. Like breaking relations with Cuba only a few days before the new administration took over. Or that American petroleum interests, having charged Cuba extortionate prices, refused to process raw petroleum Castro bought at a much lower price. That forced him to nationalize first petroleum interests and then others. We were determined to continue to rob Cuba, to extort what we could extort, and was going to trash it if it dared object or try to save itself.

That Kennedy had a back channel with Dobrynin is something I wondered about when Bobby went to see him during the crisis but I had no knowledge of it. What Holland does not say is what the political climate created by the previous administrations was, a word about the Cold War, or about what would happen if it got to be known that the Kennedy administration had anything but bombs for the USSR, leave alone a desire for peace, for reducing the bankrupting cost of the Cold War and for ending it. He did get detente started and did not survive that.

I am not now certain but I think the Bolshakov Bobby met with is the man to whom Khruschev turned to get his first missile proposal to the Kennedy administration.

Holland has come to regard himself as a Big Brain and this writing also illustrates that. He is defensive of the official posture and roles and in effect argues the administrations' positions. As he did with the Warren Commission in American Heritage.